

## Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP,(KISSINGER)(MOBUTU) PFOR, US, CG

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION: PRESIDENT MOBUTU (ZAIRE);

OCTOBER 5, 1973 10:15A.M.;

10 R WALDORF

1. PARTICIPANTS: ZAIRE: PRESIDENT MOBUTU  
COUNSELOR MOKOLO  
AMB. LOMBO

U.S.: THE SECRETARY  
ASST. SEC. NEWSOM  
MR. HORAN  
MR. COHEN

2. SUMMARY: SECRETARY AND MOBUTU EXCHANGED PLEDGES TO CONTINUE FRIENDLY AND FRANK COLLABORATION ON QUESTIONS OF MUTUAL INTEREST. MOBUTU SAID THAT WHILE ZAIRE IS CONDEMNED BY ITS LEADERSHIP ROLE IN AFRICA TO DEMONSTRATE GREATER NONALIGNMENT, ZAIRE IS DETERMINED TO MAINTAIN ITS POSITION OF INDEPENDENCE. SECRETARY SAID WE RECOGNIZE WHAT MOBUTU IS TRYING TO ACCOMPLISH WHICH IS WHY WE WISH TO MAINTAIN CLOSE RELATIONS.

3. ZAIRE'S INTERNATIONAL POSITION. FOLLOWING PLEASANTRIES, SECRETARY CONGRATULATED MOBUTU ON ELOQUENT ADDRESS TO UNGA PREVIOUS DAY. HE SAID WE APPRECIATE MOBUTU'S  
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FAVORABLE REFERENCES TO THE US RESOLUTION OF THE VIETNAM WAR AS WELL AS ZAIRE'S NEW STAND ON THE KOREAN QUESTION. SECRETARY SAID US UNDERSTANDS MOBUTU MUST TAKE CERTAIN

PUBLIC POSITIONS IN ORDER TO DEFINE HIS AFRICAN RELATIONSHIPS. MOBUTU SAID ZAIRE IS CONDEMNED TO TAKE SUCH POSITIONS BECAUSE ZAIRE IS CALLED UPON TO PLAY A CERTAIN ROLE IN AFRICA. AT THE PRESENT TIME ZAIRE IS TRYING TO GET AWAY FROM CERTAIN AMBIGUITIES WHICH UNTIL NOW HAVE DISTORTED ITS IMAGE.

4. US-ZAIRE RELATIONS. SECRETARY SAID WE CONSIDER ZAIRE ONE OF KEY COUNTRIES IN AFRICA AND MOBUTU ONE OF AFRICA'S OUTSTANDING LEADERS. WE THERFORE HOPE TO BE ABLE TO STAY IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH MOBUTU.

5. MOBUTU REPLIED THAT ON BASIS OF LONGSTANDING US-ZAIRE FRIENDSHIP HE FEELS WE CAN DISCUSS MUTUAL PROBLEMS FRANKLY AND QUIETLY WITHOUT DISPLAYING THEM IN PUBLIC. FOR EXAMPLE, HE HAD PERSONALLY DELETED A NUMBER OF CRITICISMS OF THE US FROM THE DRAFT OF HIS UNGA SPEECH. HE SPOKE SHARPLY ABOUT US STOCKPILE RELEASE OF COPPER AND DIAMONDS, BUT SAID IF WE HAVE PROBLEMS WITH THE US ABOUT STOCKPILES SALES WE WILL DISCUSS THEM WITH USG QUIETLY. ON THE BASIS OF A DISCUSSION WITH USG CONTACTS, MOBUTU SAID ZAIRE WILL ABSTAIN ON THE QUESTION OF SEATING GRUNK AT THE UN EVEN THOUGH HE HAS RECOGNIZED PRINCE SIHANOUK. THESE ARE EXAMPLES OF HOW TWO GOOD FRIENDS SHOULD DEAL WITH EACH OTHER.

6. SECRETARY AGREED AND THANKED MOBUTU FOR HIS POSITION ON CAMBODIA SEATING QUESTION. HE URGED MOBUTU TO BE PERFECTLY FRANK WITH US AT ALL TIMES, ESPECIALLY WHEN HE SEES PRESIDENT NIXON ON OCTOBER 10.

7. NON-ALIGNMENT. ON QUESTION OF NON-ALIGNMENT, SECRETARY SAID WE ARE NOT SURE WHAT NON-ALIGNED WORLD IS REALLY NON-ALIGNED ABOUT. IF THERE IS A TENDENCY FOR THE NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES TO TAKE POSITIONS CONSISTENTLY AGAINST THE US, THERE IS NO REASON FOR THE US TO PAY ANY ATTENTION TO THEM. SECRETARY SAID THIS REMARK WAS NOT DIRECTED AGAINST ZAIRE, BUT MADE TO MOBUTU AS ONE OF THE OUTSTANDING LEADERS  
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TO WHOM THE NON-ALIGNED LISTEN MOST DIRECTLY. HE ADDED CUBA WAS HARDLY NON-ALIGNED.

8. MOBUTU SAID THIS WAS EXACTLY THE POSITION ZAIRE TOOK AT THE ALGIERS CONFERENCE WHICH WAS ALIGNED RATHER THAN NONALIGNED. HOW CAN THE NONALIGNED WORLD IGNORE SOVIET IMPERIALISM IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA, FOR EXAMPLE. WHEN ONE WANTS TO SEE TRUE NONALIGNMENT, MOBUTU SAID, ZAIRE PROVIDES THE BEST EXAMPLE.

9. SECRETARY SAID THAT IS WHY WE TALK TO MOBUTU. WE

KNOW THAT IF ANYONE IS GOING TO BE INDEPENDENT, IT IS  
MOBUTU.  
KISSINGER

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